Development of Tourism in Karnataka

*55. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals/suggestions made by the State Government of Karnataka for the development of tourism in the State are pending with Jhe Central Government for approval/clearance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when final approval/clearance of the Central Government is likely to be accorded, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of places of tourist interests/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance under the following schemes to State Governments/Union Territories:

(i) Product/Infrastructure development for destinations and circuits

(ii) Rural Tourism Development

(iii) Large Revenue Generating projects

(iv) Fairs/Festivals/Events

(v) Information Technology

The following project proposals have been received from the State Government of Karnataka:

SI. No.	Name of the project
1.	Rural tourism project at Gokarna, District Uttar Kannada.
2.	Rural tourism at Village llkal, District Bagalkore
3.	Channapatana rural development.
4.	Rural Tourism development at Village Kumta, District Uttara Kannada.
5.	Village Sagar, District Shimoga - Rural tourism project.
6.	Integrated development of tourism circuit on Bijapur-Bidar-Gulbarga.
7.	Development of Eco-Tourism Park at Hanumantanagar, Maddur Taluk Mandya District.
8.	Development of Bijapur-Bidar-Gulbarga-Pattadakal circuit.
9.	Destination development of Pilikula Nisargadhama near Mangalore.
10.	Development of Srirangapattana-Shivapura-Ramaswamy — Freedom circuit.

The project proposals, which are complete in all respect, are appraised as per guidelines and processed on the basis of *inter-se-priority* and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head during the concerned financial year. During the Tenth Five Year Plan projects worth Rs. 9052.02 lakh have been sanctioned to the State Government of Karnataka for integrated development of tourism.

Offices for Village Accountants

*56. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many offices of Village Accountants are functioning in Karnataka;

(b) how many offices are functioning in rented premises, district-wise;

(c) how many offices are functioning from Government-owned buildings, district-wise; and

(d) what are the reasons for not getting Government-owned buildings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per the information received from Government of Karnataka, it is learnt that there are 9213 offices of Village Accountants functioning in Karnataka spread over 27 districts.

(b) to (d) The Government of Karnataka have stated that details in respect of the offices of Village Accountants functioning in rented premises and Government owned buildings have to be procured from the District Collectors/village level and would take some time in collecting.

Sixth Pay Commission

*57. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings of the Sixth Pay Commission held so far;

(b) the subjects covered in these meetings;

(c) whether an interim report is likely to be presented to the Government by the commission;

(d) the date by which the interim report is likely to be presented to Government; and

(e) the date by which final report will be submitted by the Commission to Government.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The Sixth Central Pay Commission has held 20 (twenty) meetings so far with various Associations, Department Heads etc. wherein different issues relating to matters covered by the Terms of Reference of the Commission were discussed. The Commission has informed the Government that it expects to submit its final report within the stipulated date, which is April 4, 2008. Hence no interim report is contemplated.